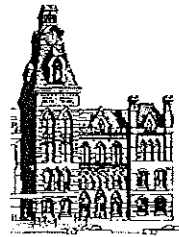




John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

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**Testimony of the City of New Haven
Before the Planning and Development Committee**

Regarding
REDUCING MANDATES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Submitted by
Rebecca Bombero, Legislative Director, City of New Haven
February 1, 2013

Senator Cassano, Representative Rojas, and members of the Committee,

The City of New Haven is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on Reducing Mandates for Municipalities.

HB 5295 would eliminate the municipal mandate for the storage of possessions of evicted tenants. PA 10-171 relieved the municipality of the burden of transporting these positions from the residence to the storage facility enabling the redeployment of staff time to other critical public works functions. Despite these savings the storage of goods still costs the City in excess of \$250,000 annually. Often possessions are not claimed and the fees paid by the tenant, or the proceeds from auction do not cover these costs. The bill is unclear as to who the responsibilities would now fall, but we strongly support the concept of reliving a municipality from this burden.

In addition, there are several bills that would help to reduce the costly advertizing burdens placed upon cities. With the cost of newspaper advertisements rapidly increasing, and traditional papers shifting toward an online market, it makes sense to clarify state law to permit online public notices as well.

Thank you for your time.